

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 06233 101602Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CTME-00 COME-00
STR-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /038 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7117

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, US
SUBJECT: TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM

REF: STATE 157105

1. ON BASIS EXPERIENCE AND IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT CLIMATE AND BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE AUSTRIAN STEEL INDUSTRY, WE FORESEE VERY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REFTEL. IT IS NEITHER LOCAL PRACTICE NOR REQUIREMENT FOR AUSTRIAN FIRMS TO MAKE SUCH EXTENSIVE, DETAILED AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION AVAILABLE. WE WILL COLLECT WHAT WE CAN, BUT UNTIL A COMPANY IS UNDER INVESTIGATION AND THERE IS A CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE INTEREST IN OPENING ITS BOOKS, WE FEAR WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

2. REGARDING PRODUCTION INFORMATION, THE FIRST THREE ITEMS IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL COULD BE OBTAINED, BUT ONLY FOR THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY IN ITS TOTALITY. INFORMATION ON A DISAGGREGATED BASIS IS NOT AVAILABLE.

3. REGARDING PRICE INFORMATION, IT IS UNCLEAR TO US EXACTLY WHICH PRICES ARE BEING REQUESTED. THERE ARE
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 06233 101602Z

MANY DIFFERENT PRICE LEVELS, DEPENDING ON WHETHER DOMESTIC PRICES, PRICES TO PARTNER COUNTRIES, OR PRICES TO THIRD COUNTRIES ARE MEANT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IF ONE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT PRICE-AGREEMENTS WITH PARTNER- OR THIRD COUNTRIES (NEGOTIABLE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS) WHICH, WITH CERTAIN SECTORS OPERATING AT A LOSS (SEE FOR EXAMPLE VOEST-ALPINE 1976 ANNUAL REPORT),

CAN HAVE A DAMPENING EFFECT ON DOMESTIC SALES. THIS
POINTS TO THE FACT THAT MANY PRICE LISTS MAY JUST EXIST
ON PAPER. IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED, THOUGH, THAT EVEN IF
CLARIFICATION AS TO WHICH PRICES ARE MET IS OBTAINED, IT
WOULD STILL BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN MORE THAN A FEW
GENERAL BASE PRICES. COMPANY FINANCIAL REPORTS DO NOT
INCLUDE PRICES. THE SENSITIVITY PROBLEM ALSO APPLIES
TO COST OF PRODUCTION DATA. WOLF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: STEEL, INDUSTRY, PRICES, PRICE FIXING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: ETRD, EIND, US
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